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# BOOK REVIEWS

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**Hugo Grotius.** By *Hamilton Veerland*. Oxford University Press, New York. 258 p. 1917. \$2.00.

To the student of the history of liberty it is doubtful if there is a more sacred place in the world than the ancient *Nieuwe Kerk*, in the city of Delft, Holland; for in that church, almost side by side, rest the remains of William the Silent and those of Hugo Grotius. On the three hundredth anniversary of Grotius' birth, April 10, 1883, the nations paid special tribute at his shrine, and three years later a bronze statue was erected in front of the church to his memory. July 4, 1889, with appropriate ceremony, the nations then in conference at the Hague witnessed the ceremony of placing a silver wreath upon his tomb, a wreath which bore the inscription: "To the memory of Hugo Grotius, in reverence and gratitude from the United States of America, on the occasion of the International Peace Congress of the Hague, July 4, 1889." All evidences of appreciation of Grotius begin and end in the belief that he, "above all others, held up to nations the court of arbitration, ministering all law for all, as their common and ultimate destiny." The twelve biographical and analytical chapters of this book set forth the reasons, clearly and convincingly, for this interpretation of Grotius' contribution to the cause of international justice. We are not, and never have been, interested in the discussion whether Grotius is or is not "the father of international law." We don't care whether Kohler's charge that his "citations are for the most part fables and rococo ornaments" is so or not. The fact is that Grotius' work is a classic contribution to human thinking, and Mr. Veerland's book is a clear and welcome analysis at a time when it is especially needed.

**A Survey of International Relations Between the United States and Germany.** August 1, 1914-April 6, 1917. By *James Brown Scott*. Oxford University Press, New York City. 1917. Pp. 390. \$5.00.

This book may justly be characterized as America's interpretation of the real questions at issue between this country and the Imperial German Government, covering especially the period between August 1, 1914, and April 6, 1917. The diplomatic correspondence between the United States and Germany, together with President Wilson's addresses, messages, and papers on foreign policy, have been edited by Dr. Scott and published under separate covers. That we now have both the diplomatic correspondence and this volume in the same format will be a welcome announcement to every student of America's defense in this world war. The spirit of the work is contained in Hegel's remark that "the history of the world is the world's court of judgment." With none of the methods of the special pleader, we have here before us America's reasons and purposes sufficiently sincere and sincerely sufficient. The German conceptions of the state are revealed in the author's introduction by quotations from German leaders since Frederick the Great. The aim of the author to state and consider the reasons which led the United States to declare the existence of a state of war with the Imperial German Government is maintained throughout, but the earlier pages deal with the genesis of the war, the neutrality of the United States, charges and counter-charges, ending in the use and abuse of the submarine which the author believes to be "the direct and impelling cause of the war." The student will be glad to review the pages on reprisals, the belligerent use of neutral flags, and especially will he wish to study the author's treatment of the difficulties involved in "the freedom of the seas," a chapter which alone is sufficiently germane to present world problems to warrant this additional contribution from the hand of so competent and fruitful an analyst.

**The Five Republics of Central America.** By *Dana C. Munro*. Edited by *David Kinley*. Carnegie Endowment for International Peace. Division of Economics and History. John Bates Clark, Director. i-xvi + 332 p. 1918. \$3.50.

This is a volume of first-hand information by a Princeton professor who knows how to write clearly. No one text known to us sets forth so clearly the facts one wishes first to know about these five turbulent and interesting friends of ours to the South. We have here in outline an accurate picture of Central American political institutions. The probabilities in the establishment of a Central American federation are laid before us, together with the causes of Central American revolutions. A separate chapter is devoted to the Washington Conference of 1907, to the intervention of the United States in Nicaragua, and to the influence of the United States in Central America. Matters relating to commerce in Central America and to public finance are sufficiently stated. The bibliography and index round out the serviceability of the book.

**War Administration of the Railways in the United States and Great Britain.** By *Frank Haigh Dixon* and *Julius H. Parmelee*. Carnegie Endowment for International Peace. Division of Economics and History. John Bates Clark, Director. i-x + 155 p. 1918. Paper, free. Cloth, \$1.00.

Professor Dixon is professor of Economics in Dartmouth College and chief statistician of the Bureau of Railway Economics. Mr. Parmelee is a statistician of the Bureau of Railway Economics. The inspiration of this text seems to be found in the remark of Marshal Joffre, "The battle of the Marne was won by the railways of France . . . this is a railway war." This text presents a brief history of the development in the United States of the organization which welded the railways of the nation into one operating unit, and of the results attained in Great Britain by the organization of the railways for war. The appendices give a personnel of the railway war organization in the United States and other valuable data relative to Great Britain. The proclamation of the President taking possession of the railways is included.

**Latin America and the United States.** Addresses by *Elihu Root*. Collected and edited by *Robert Bacon* and *James Brown Scott*. Harvard University Press, Cambridge, Mass. 289 p. 1917. \$2.50 net.

This book brings freshly to our minds again the significant visit of Mr. Root as Secretary of State to South America in 1906. We have here not only Mr. Root's speeches in Brazil, Uruguay, Argentina, Chile, Peru, Panama, Colombia, Mexico, but several of his addresses on South American affairs subsequently delivered in the United States. In addition there are many speeches by leading South American statesmen, most of which were given because of Mr. Root's presence in that land. The volume is a contribution to this generation of American statesmanship, especially welcome to any interested in the stimulating politics of this hemisphere.

**The Foreign Policy of Woodrow Wilson, 1913-1917.** By *Edgar E. Robinson* and *Victor J. West*. The Macmillan Company, New York City. 428 p. 1917. \$2.25.

We have here a book which sets before us the development of President Wilson's policy, the important events in American foreign relations, and the more important utterances of the administration from the time of President Wilson's first inauguration to the communication of Secretary Lansing to Pope Benedict XV, August 27, 1917. This is a contribution worth while to any one interested to know the facts.